



## **New Castle Court House Museum Timeline**



- 1651** The Dutch under Peter Stuyvesant, build Fort Casimir at present site of New Castle.
- 1654** The Swedes capture Fort Casimir on Trinity Sunday, renaming it Fort Trinity.
- 1655** Peter Stuyvesant reclaims the fort for the Dutch.
- 1656** Ownership is transferred to the City of Amsterdam – the town is named New Amstel.
- 1664** The town is captured by forces of the Duke of York – renamed New Castle.
- 1682** On October 27<sup>th</sup>, William Penn arrives to take possession of New Castle, his first landing in the New World.
- 1704** In November, the first separate Assembly of the Lower Three Counties convenes at New Castle, now the capital of the Colony.
- 1732** The center block of the present courthouse is built, to serve as a meeting place of the Colonial Assembly, and the courts of New Castle County.
- 1765** Two small wings added to center block of Courthouse.
- 1776** June 15<sup>th</sup>, the last Colonial Assembly adopts a resolution creating the Delaware State. This action severs all ties to Pennsylvania and the English Crown. New Castle becomes the first State Capital.
- 1776** The first constitution of the Delaware State is written and adopted in the Assembly Room of the New Castle Court House.
- 1777** May 12<sup>th</sup> – The seat of State Government moves to Dover.
- 1845** Present west wing is built to house the records of the Court and New Castle County.
- 1881** Courts and county offices are moved to Wilmington, the new county seat of New Castle.
- 1950-60** The Court House is restored and opened to the public as a museum.